

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 33, 37, 39, 45, 49 and 55 as shown in the attached Claims Listing.

Please add new claims 58 – 61 as shown in the attached Claims Listing.

A Claims Listing marked to show all amendments and indicating the status of each claim is attached as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c).

CLAIMS:

1 - 32 (Canceled).

33. (Currently Amended) An optical subassembly [[with]], comprising: a mount, a mirror element that has an optical surface and bearing points arranged on the circumference of the mirror element, the mirror element being connected to [[a]] the mount at the bearing points via connecting elements, [whereby] the mirror element having stress-decoupling cutouts [[are]] arranged between the optical surface and the bearing points [[and]], the mirror element [[has]] having a mirror part [[with]] which has the optical surface [[and]], the mirror element further having a base part [and whereby], the cutouts [[are]] being arranged in the base part [wherein] such that at least one of the cutouts allows [is simultaneously provided for] the passage of a [projection] projected beam through the mirror element by way of the at least one of the cutouts.
34. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 33, wherein the cutouts are formed as slots.
35. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 34 wherein the slots have at least approximately a curved shape.
36. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 35, wherein, in its course, the curved shape is at least approximately matched to the external course of the optical surface.
37. (Currently Amended) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the slots are designed to be continuous in [[the]] an axial direction.
38. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 33, wherein the mirror part and the base part are formed in one piece.
39. (Currently Amended) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 33, wherein the connecting elements [are provided whose clamping forces can be adjusted] have adjustable clamping forces.
40. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 39, wherein the connecting elements have clamping elements which connect the bearing points to the mount with a force fit.
41. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 40, wherein the clamping elements are each connected to the mount by screw connections.

42. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 41, wherein the screw connections are provided with spring elements, via which a preselected preclamping force can be set.
43. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 39, wherein three bearing points are arranged distributed on the circumference of the optical element, each bearing point being connected to the mount via at least one connecting joint.
44. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 43, wherein the at least one connecting joint is designed to be stiff in two directions.
45. (Currently Amended) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 44, wherein the at least one connecting joint is designed to be stiff in ~~[[the]]~~ a tangential direction and in ~~[[the]]~~ an axial direction.
46. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 43, wherein two bearing feet are provided for each bearing point as connecting elements.
47. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 46, wherein the two bearing feet are arranged in the form of a bipod.
48. (Previously Presented) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 43, wherein the connecting elements are formed as solid-body joints with slots.
49. (Currently Amended) A projection objective for use in semiconductor lithography [having], the projection objective, comprising: at least one optical subassembly with a mirror element which has an optical surface and bearing points arranged on the circumference, the mirror element being connected to a mount ~~[[at]]~~ through the bearing points via connecting elements, [wherein] the mirror element having stress-decoupling cutouts arranged between the optical surface and the bearing points so as to permit a beam to pass through the mirror element by way of at least one of the cutouts.
50. (Previously Presented) The projection objective as claimed in claim 49, wherein the cutouts are at least approximately formed as curved slots.
51. (Previously Presented) The projection objective as claimed in claim 49, wherein the mirror element has a mirror part with the optical surface and a base part, the mirror part and the base part being formed in one piece.
52. (Previously Presented) The projection objective as claimed in claim 49, wherein the connecting elements have clamping elements which connect the bearing points to the mount with a force fit.

53. (Previously Presented) The projection objective as claimed in claim 52, wherein the clamping elements are connected to the mount via screw connections with spring elements, via which a preselected preclamping force can be set.
54. (Previously Presented) The projection objective as claimed in claim 49, wherein at least the mirror element, the connecting elements and the mount are formed of materials with very low thermal expansion coefficients.
55. (Currently Amended) The projection objective as claimed in claim 54, wherein [[a]] the mirror element comprising a mirror part with [[an]] the optical surface and a base part connected to the latter in one piece is formed of glass ceramic.
56. (Previously Presented) The projection objective as claimed in claim 54, wherein at least some of the connecting elements are formed of Invar.
57. (Previously Presented) The projection objective as claimed in claim 54, wherein the mount is formed of ceramic.
58. (New) The projection objective as claimed in claim 49, wherein the beam is an illumination beam.
59. (New) the projection objective as claimed in claim 49 wherein at least one of the cutouts is arranged to permit at least a portion of the beam to pass through a region of the mirror part.
60. (New) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 33, wherein the beam is an illumination beam.
61. (New) The optical subassembly as claimed in claim 33, wherein the at least one of the cutouts is arranged to allow at least a portion of the beam to pass through a region of the mirror part.